



The E-Learning Unit consists of the "E-Team", Carlos Galindo, Manager, Lindy Stinson, Eli Caron, Chris Campbell, Angela Mico, and Nhia Her.

SATELLITE TRAINING EXPERIENCE

In July 2007, the Office of Training and Professional Development (OTPD), with tactical coordination by the E-Learning Unit, took a large step into the future of training. New supervisors from Richard J. Donovan, High Desert State Prison (HDSP), Salinas Valley State Prison, and Headquarters (HQs') were the first to experience Interactive Distance Learning via live satellite from within their own In-Service Training classrooms. The end result for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) was that mandated supervisory training was provided to staff while saving thousands of dollars in travel costs, keeping staff close to their families for the week, and ensuring that staff could be available at their local work site for other shifts as necessary.

Prior to the start of the training, instructors and classroom proctors from Stockton Training Center's Advance Academies, and HQ's E-Learning, Employee Wellness, Labor Relations, and Office of Civil Rights, attended training at California State University, Sacramento's Multi-media lab,

where cameras, wireless microphones, touch pad, computer screens and high tech toys all contributed to a highly interactive and visually stimulating training experience. What normally would have been a once a month class held in Stockton's Training Center in a traditional classroom, was broadcast by satellite to four locations simultaneously, resulting in 84 participants completing and being certified in the 40-hour Basic Supervision course.

At the receiving four locations, staff participating in the class were given a touch pad where they were able to interact with the instructors via a microphone inset on their touchpad as well as color coded buttons on their keypads to enter answers for multiple choice: yes/no, and true/false questions. As each participant entered his/her answers to questions, instantaneously the results popped-up on graphs and charts on the projected screens or large TV's for all to see and share.

Participants were surprised by the interactivity of the system. They found themselves responding to the person on the screen as if they were in front of them, and nodding their heads back and forth as if conversing with them in the flesh. Conversely, instructors from the studio were able to call on any participant from the four locations and ask them a question directly, or respond to them by name and location as if they could see them in an ordinary class. Participants were kept on their toes, as they began to find this out in hopes that they would not be chosen to answer the next tough question.

CDCR has been struggling each year to provide staff located throughout California with high quality, standardized and timely courses at or near their work site. Locations in remote areas such as Blythe, Pelican Bay, Calipatria, and HDSP are notoriously difficult to reach and serve. As one of California's largest organizations, we are exploring ways to keep staff compliant with federal and state mandates for training, while controlling costs. This pilot project has proven that distance learning can have a potentially significant impact on the way we implement certain types of required training and communications.

The E-Learning Unit of OPTD is proud of its successful pilot of distance learning technology and will be looking at ways to continue to expand and improve upon the use of this relatively new technology to help CDCR achieve its goal of workforce excellence.



"E-Learning . . . bringing the world of training to you!"